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## **TRAFFIC FATALITIES CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN FLORIDA**

*~ Preliminary figures show crash fatalities fall for fifth year straight ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – In 2010, Florida experienced 2,430 traffic crash fatalities, a three-decade low number of traffic crash fatalities and an annual decrease of more than five percent, according to preliminary data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. By comparison, 2,563 people died in traffic crashes in 2009. The number of crash fatalities in 2010 is the lowest the state has seen since 1978 even though the Sunshine State's population has doubled since that time.

"It is encouraging to see the number of traffic fatalities continue to drop, and the Department will continue our efforts to educate motorists and aggressively enforce the traffic laws to create the safest possible driving environment," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. "Unfortunately, we know all too well the devastating impact that even a single fatality resulting from a careless, inattentive or impaired driver can have on a family and community."

The final count for 2010 will be made available later this year when the Department publishes its annual *Traffic Crash Statistics Report 2010*. Reports from previous years are available online at [www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html).

"The Florida Highway Patrol is committed to patrolling Florida's highways around the clock, every day of the year, to safeguard motorists and stop dangerous drivers," said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. "Our law enforcement partners and public safety stakeholders also deserve credit for their efforts to keep our streets safe. Motorists can do their part when they buckle up every ride, every time."

Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of people between the ages of 5 – 34, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC reports, "seat belt use is the single most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes" and "using seat belts reduces serious injuries and deaths in crashes by about 50 percent."

In an effort to reduce crashes, state troopers not only enforce the law, but also they educate the public on safe driving habits. They talk to groups about traffic safety, conduct demonstrations using the rollover simulator, show parents how to properly install car seats and more. The Department conducts numerous education campaigns, such as [Drive with CARE](#), a program for teen drivers and their parents. *Drive with CARE* prepares teen drivers for a lifetime of safe driving.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) or follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](#).

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